

REMARKS

This amendment, submitted in response to the final Office Action dated June 2, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to the points of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5-11 are pending. Claims 2-4 and 12-22 are cancelled above. Claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended above. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 and 6-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over US Patent No. 6,002,706 (Staver), in view of US Patent No. 6,512,584 (O'Loughlin), in further view of US Patent No. 6,548,782 (Dykes), in still further view of US Patent No. 5,987,042 (Staver2). The Examiner indicated that Claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the pending claims.

Regarding the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) of the claims, Applicants maintain their prior position and disagree with the arguments set forth by the Examiner. However, to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claim 1 is amended above to include the additional recitations of original Claims 2, 3 and 4. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from Claim 1. Claims 8-11 depend from Claim 7.

Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 6 depends from Claim 5.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, namely Claims 1 and 5-11 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections to Claims 1 and 7-11 under 35 USC 103(a) and of the objections to Claims 5 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/700,063
Response dated 11 July 2006
Reply to Office Action of 2 June 2006

RD 27511-1

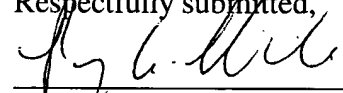
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Please charge all applicable fees associated with the submittal of this Amendment and any other fees applicable to this application to the Assignee's Deposit Account No. 07-0868.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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July 11, 2006
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